Letters to the Editor

Bleak Prospect

The Rev. H. P. Davidson, in criticizing your editorial dealing with the strike of our civil servants, is concerned with the moral aspect of the situation.

He is not probably aware that when a man applies for a position in the civil service, he is fully advised of the salary paid for that particular job. The advertisement for the vacant situation is put up in the post office and carried in the newspapers. It clearly states the wages paid and will state, say $250 per month to start, gradually rising to $350.

Now, if our applicant has passed the examination and is taken on, he then signs a contract that will pay him the wage stated as long as he is in that position, plus fringe benefits, such as sick leave, holidays and pension. He therefore has entered into a contract with the government and could be sued at law should he fail to keep his share of the bargain.

Due to the increase in the cost of living, the government has been willing to change the scale of wages from time to time, but it still does not give the civil servant the right to strike without violating the terms of his contract. Does Mr. Davidson think that the army and navy should also have the right to strike? Why, it would be considered terason. Who is going to pay the extra millions the government had to vote for the last demand. The average citizen will have to pay more taxes and if the cry for more wages continues the prospect is bleak indeed.

E. LeGRESLEY.

589 Hampshire Road.

Moral Obligation

The Rev. H. P. Davidson indicts the premier and government for their refusal or delaying publication of the Carrother's Report, thus provoking government employees into striking.

These thoughtful comments raise my question as to what is so secret about public business that has to remain hidden?

On the other hand I query Mr. Davidon's reference to employees as loyal and his condonation of the moral obligation of civil servants to the Crown, and to the will of the people in the province as a whole.

The government is only instrumental and in accordance with the wishes of the people. The peaceful expression of grievances is in effect, preferably registered through balloting at election time, rather than intimidation by strike action.

Mr. Davidson's concluding reference to the average citizen, whoever this is, also seems to indicate his sympathy with strikers and their action, regardless of implications and subsequent chaos which the majority of people suffer through the action of a minority.

C. F. MANSFIELD.

980 McKenzie Avenue.

Why Not Nuclear Power?

Why all the rush to harness the Columbia and other rivers, with the great danger of depleting, or perhaps destroying altogether, the fishing which is dependant upon these rivers; besides the submerging of thousands of acres of valuable timber-land and mineral producing country?

Are we not entering the age of nuclear power? The Old Country is already using it to great advantage. If so much money is available for river development, and sums into a billion dollars or more are mentioned, would it not be equally available for the constructoin of nuclear plants, which could be erected in suitable and strategic points throughout the province? Thus we would be able to have the power we need without destroying any of our valuable resources.

E. W. ABRAHAM.

1125 Faithful Street.

Operation Friendship

May I, through your columns, express my appreciation and thanks to all civil defence personnel who took part in this exercise at Sooke. After considerable planning the test came when hundreds of "disaster" victims were received and processed through a welfare centre in accordance with civil defence training.

The volunteer staff and teams of auxiliary police, registration, inquiry and social services, emergency clothing, emergency feeding, lodging and warden services all performed a difficult task. In addition I wish to thank the Girl Guides, Sea Rangers and Boy Scouts and their leaders and those behind the scenes, short wave operators and telephonists, and at the Legion Hall near by, the Victoria ambulance team and Sooke first aid personnel.

In conclusion, a bouquet to the people of Victoria West who co-operated to make this a very worthwhile exercise; they were courteous and patient and the children who accompanied them equally so.

It is regretted that Mr. Gregory has not seen fit to attend training classes in any of the foregoing services, otherwise he would know what all this is about.

P. W. TAYLOR,
Civil Defence Officer.

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Found Out Again

"Great impersonator" Waldo Demara has turned up in another bogus role — this time as a notary public in Boston. Authorities say they'll cancel the commission granted to the man who has posed as navy surgeon, teacher and prison guard.

But Only Africans Die

Whites on Death List

LONDON (Reuters) — The British governor was among those earmarked for death in a planned uprising by Nyasaland natives, a government white paper disclosed Monday.

The document, based an a report by Nyasaland Governor Sir Robert Armitage, outlined details of the "massacre plot" which was given by Armitage as the reason a state of emergency was declared in the central African protectorate March 3.

Since that date, close to 50 Africans have been killed by police and soldiers in Nyasaland. No whites have died.

The white paper said the massacre plan included:

1. The assassination of Armitage and other senior British officers;

2. The murder of district and provicial commissioners, district police officers and other Europeans, including missionaries, and also certain chiefs and other Africans classed as Quislings. In the townships, Europeans and Asians were to be killed, including women and children;

3. The sabotage of telephone wires, road and rail bridges, air fields and installations, gasoline dumps and the main power station at Blantyre.

The report said the plot was organized at a secret meeting in Blantyre Jan. 25 attended by about 140 delegates of the African National Congress.

The report said: "Such was the effectiveness of this cloak of secrecy that, some time elapsed before knowledge of what took place at this meeting became available to the government."

★ ★ ★

Welensky Set Back

LUSAKA, Northern Rhodesia (Reuters)—United Federal Party condidates were defeated in the two Northern Rhodesia electoral districts where results were declared Monday, leaving the party with little hope of gaining an over-all majority in the legislative assembly.

This was an unexpected setback for Prime Minister Sir Roy Welensky of the Rhodesian Federation, whose United Federal Party had earlier forged steadily toward control of the council as results came in.

The party had won 13 of the 22 elected seats for the council as a result of the election three days ago and looked certain of getting an over-all majority of 16 in the whole council, which includes eight appointed members.

★ ★ ★

Rhodesia to Soften Stiff Detention Bill

SALISBURY (Reuters) — Southern Rhodesia will release 51 members of the banned African Notional Congress and revamp a criticized "preventive detention" bill now before Parliament.

But Southern Rhodesian Prime Minister Sir Edgar Whitehead made it plain in a radio broadcast Monday that most political prisoners from Northern Rhodesia and Nyasaland held in Southern Rhodesia will not be released.

He admitted the detention bill — which would have allowed a person to be held for up to five years without trial —had come under heavy criticism. It will be dropped, and Parliament after Easter will consider another bill with detention provisions.

Under the states of emergency, the African National Congress was banned in Southern Rhodesia and Nyasaland and its leaders detained.

FBI Rounds Up 12 In Puzzle Fraud

WASHINGTON (UPI)—The FBI arrested 12 persons in six states Monday on charges of swindling more than $45,000 in a nationwide newspaper puzzle contest racket.

FBI director J. Edgar Hoover said four were seized in Oregon, three in Michigan, two in Pennsylvania and one each in Indiana and Wisconsin. One from Minnesota was picked up in Florida.

They were accused of conspiring to violate the federal mail fraud statutes and laws covering frauds by wire or telegraph. The maximum penalty would be a $10,000 fine and five years in jail.

In addition to those arrested, Hoover said, two Canadians are believed to be part of the conspiracy. U.S. and Canadian officials will meet to see if they can be extradited to this country for trial.

He said the arrests were made after investigation showed that the alleged swindlers won more than $45,000 from November, 1958, through February, 1959, by getting advance answers to puzzle contests prepared by two New York City feature syndicates by setting up a fictitious London, Ont., newspaper and bank to which answers were mailed for safekeeping.

Canadians named are George Dingman Jr., Port Stanley, Ont., and Joseph Dyson.

Mine Blast Kills Eight

ROBBINS, Tenn. (AP)—An explosion ripped through a small coal mine near here yesterday and eight miners were reported killed.

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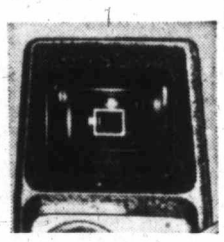

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